



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ANNOUNCES LOCAL ARRESTS AS PART OF OPERATION FALCON *158 criminal fugitives arrested in the New York area*

NEW YORK, N.Y. – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Martin D. Ficke today announced the arrests of 158 criminal fugitives as a part of Operation Falcon, a national initiative which is coordinated by the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS). The Falcon initiative was conducted in major cities across the United States this past week.

Ficke explained, “ICE’s commitment to apprehend, detain and remove fugitive criminal aliens from this country is on-going. Today’s announcement demonstrates our commitment to work with the U.S. Marshals Service and the law enforcement communities to help make our cities and neighborhoods safer and more secure for everyone.”

As a part of Operation Falcon, on April 9, 2005, the USMS Regional Fugitive Task Force arrested Brad Washington in Queens, New York. Washington was wanted for two homicides and armed robbery. On November 22, 2003, Washington shot his victim in the head with a .45 caliber handgun and on January 6, 2004, Washington shot a second victim once in the torso, once in the groin, once in his left arm and once in his left thigh. Each victim died. Washington also robbed a gas station in Queens, holding the victim at gunpoint and taking approximately \$250 in cash.

Each week, the USMS Regional Fugitive Task Force locally clears over 200 warrants. During the week of April 4, 2005 and April 10, 2005, as part of Operation Falcon, the task force cleared 210 warrants and arrested 158 fugitives. The warrants and arrests reflect such crimes as arson (2), assault (10), burglary/larceny (18), financial/fraud (17), homicide (3), narcotics (115), robbery (13), sexual assault and other sex offenses (2), stolen vehicles (6), weapons (8) and other (18).

ICE has a long-standing relationship with the U.S. Marshals Service and has been an active member of the Regional Fugitive Task Force team. The USMS is using its existing network of District and Regional Fugitive Task Forces across the country to provide the infrastructure for Operation Falcon. The emphasis will be on gang related crimes, homicides, crimes against children and the elderly, and other crimes of violence.

April 19, 2005, will mark the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. At the time, it was the deadliest criminal action committed on U.S. soil. On September 11, 2001, the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon surpassed the devastation of the bombing in Oklahoma City. In honor of the victims of these criminal assaults, Operation Falcon is being conducted in conjunction with National Crime Victim' Rights Week.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities